Subject:— *Tariff for calls originated from fixed network (PSTN) to the cellular networks licensed to operate in Telecom Circles.*

Deptt. of Telecommunications has issued licences for operation of cellular mobile telephone service in Telecom Circles. The tariff for calls originated from PSTN to the cellular networks has been fixed as follows:

i. The intra-Circle calls will be charged at the pulse rate of 8/162/436 seconds per unit call, irrespective of the location of calling and called subscriber.

ii. The inter-Circle calls will be charged at the pulse rates applicable from the originating TAX to the designated notional TAX in the called Circle, i.e. the usual STD rate upto the called notional TAX.

2. For inter-metro city (Calcutta, Chenni, Delhi & Mumbai) traffic, charging at the pulse rate of 2/468 seconds per unit call will continue.

3 Circle-wise list of notional TAXs is given in the Annexure.

4. With this arrangement the calls among the metro cities and telecom Circles will be changed as inter-Circle calls.

5. These orders will take effect from 15th February, 1997. Necessary technical arrangements may be made in the mean time. This tariff structure may be brought to the notice of public through print media by issue of advertisements at Circle level and also at SSA level immediately. Necessary additions in the tariff information in telephone directories may be carried out for furture publications.

6. Traffic studies will be carried out for a period of one year from the operationalisation of the service, detailed instructions for which will be issued separately.

7. This issues with the concurrence of Finance vide Member (Fin.) Dy. No. 53. dated the 2.01.1997.

Sd/-
(A. K. Mittal)
Director (CS)

Cellular Mobile Tenders for Metro and non-Metro Circles

3350. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of terms and conditions fixed by the department while floating the cellular mobile tenders for non metro and metro circles separately;

(b) the number of bids received for both circles from the cellular operators;

(c) whether the tariff for non-metro circles has abruptly been hiked manifold, causing resentment amongst the operators; and

(d) if so, the details of talks held to remove the impasse and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The salient features of terms and conditions fixed by the department while floating the cellular mobile tenders for metro cities and Territorial. Telecom Circles are given in the enclosed statement I & II *(See* below).

(b) The number of bids received were 30 against tender for metro cities and 158 against Territorial Telecom Circles.

(c) and (d) There has been no change in ceiling tariff for mobile originated calls. However, in the case of calls originated from fixed telephones, a new tariff had been fixed for the first time. This case was heard by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and a decision has been given which is being examined before implementation.

Statement-I

Salient features of terms and conditions fixed by the department for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service for metro-cities.

1. The bidder must be an Indian Company registered before the date of submission of the bid.

2. The following paramenters were kept in view for selection of the licensees.

(i) Quoted rental ceiling.
(ii) Project financing plan.
(iii) Foreign exchange inflow and outflow.
(iv) Experience of the foreign operating partner.
(v) Purchase plan of cellular equipment within the country.
(vi) Financial strength of promoters/ Partner companies.
(vii) Financial projection.

3. The Validity of licence is initially for a period of ten years extendible by a period of one year or more at time.

4. The lincensee shall provide the service within twelve months of the effective date.

5. The service shall conform to the Group Special Mobile or Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM) standards.

6. The services will be provided within the ceiling tariffs fixed by the Telecom Authority.

7. The licensee will pay a licence fee to the Telecom Authority, in addition to access and junction charges to the Department of Telecom.

8. The lincensee will also pay Wireless licence fee, WPC Royalty etc.

9. The lincences will be issued on a non-exclusive basis.

Statement II

Salient features of terms and conditions fixed by the department for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service for Territorial Telecom Circles.

1. The bidder must be an Indian Company registered before the date of submission of the bid.

2. Total foreign equity in the bidding company must not be more than 49% of the total equity.

3. Networth of the bidder company and its promoters, both Indian and foreign shall not be less than Rs. 30.0 crores for 'C' Circles, Rs 50.0 crores for 'B' & 'C' Circles and Rs. 100.0 crores for 'A', 'B' & 'C' Circles. Networth of a foreign promoter will not be taken into account if its share in the equity capital of the bidder company is less than 10%.

4. The bidder company must have a subscriber base of at least one-lakh lines of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and minimum three years experience of operating a Cellular Telephone Network as on 1.1.1995.

5. The experience of an Indian or promoter company which has an equity participation of 10% or more and which is a network operator of a Cellular Mobile Network will also be added to the experience of the bidder company.

6. The initial period of licence shall be 10 years extendible by 5 years at one time.

7. The licensee shall provide the service within 12 months of signing the Licence Agreement or the effective date of the licence, whichever is earlier.

8. The service shall conform to the Group Special Mobile or Global System of Mobile Communications (GSM) standards.

9. The services will be provided within the ceiling tariffs fixed by the Telecom Authority.

10. The licensee will pay a licence fee to the Telecom Authority, in addition to

access and junction charges to the Department of Telecom.

11. The licensee will also pay Wireless licence fee, WPC Royalty etc.

12. The licences will be issued on a non-exclusive basis.

Telephone Service in Nawrangpur District of Orissa

3351. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone service in Nawrangpur district of Orissa in not upto the mark.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the telecom service there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir. The telephone services in Nawrangpur District are satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The following steps are being taken to further improve the services;

(i) Induction of modern technologies in the network.

(ii) Upgradation of out-door plant.

(iii) Replacing over-head trunk lines by Digital trunk media progressively.

(iv) Training of staff to improve the skill.

Plans to improve the Post Offices in Assam

3352. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of population/village which are served by a post office in the country as a whole and in Assam as on date;

(b) whether there are any plans/projects to improve the existing quality and quantity of post offices in Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and is not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The details of population/villages served on an average by a post office in the country as a whole and in Assam are as under:—

	National	Assam
—Population served per post office	5517	5887
—Villages served per post office	4.53	7.28

(b) and (c) There is a target of opening of 25 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 2 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Assam in 1997-98.

The following action has been taken to improve the quality of service in the Post Offices:—

(i) 65 post offices counters have been computerised.

(ii) 20 post offices have been modernised.

(iii) Letter boxes have been installed in villages having population of 500 or above.

(iv) VSAI Technology is extablished in four centres.

(v) Night buses and private mail motors are utilised for mail carriage.

Target of New Telephone Lines in Silchar

3353. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a target of 3000 new lines of telephones in Silchar was fixed for the year 1996-97 which has not been achieved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to be taken in this regard?